

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 24, 2005. Claims 30 to 69 are pending in the application, of which Claims 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68 and 69 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, a Claim To Priority, along with certified copies of the two priority documents therefor, was submitted on April 1, 1997 in grandparent Application No. 08/786,992. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents (JP 8-012624 and JP 9-004699) in the subject case.

Claims 30 to 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,228,118 (Sasaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,548,759 (Lipe). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 30 is directed to an information processing apparatus which communicates with a device via a communication medium. The information processing apparatus includes a detecting unit adapted to detect the device and an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a device ID from the device in response to a detection of the device, wherein an optional device is connected to the device and wherein the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device. The apparatus further includes a discriminating unit adapted to discriminate whether or not a device driver for controlling the device corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed and a warning unit adapted to warn when said

discriminating unit discriminates that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed in the information processing apparatus.

Accordingly, the present invention as claimed includes the feature of obtaining a device ID from a device such as a peripheral device and performing a certain operation based on the device ID such as discriminating whether a device driver is installed, discriminating whether the device can be supported, etc. In particular, an optional device, (as examples, an Automatic Document Feeder (ADF), a dual-sided printing unit, etc.) is connected to the device and the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device. In this way, the present invention provides for installing in an information apparatus a device driver corresponding to the device ID which is determined depending on a connection status of the optional device to the peripheral device.

In contrast, Sasaki discloses a printing system including a plurality of devices identified by interpreter identification data. Furthermore, Lipe, discloses receiving a device ID from a printer to select and install a device driver as shown in Fig.5A and 5B. Referring to lines 4-48, column 15 of Lipe, the setting information of a printer is stored in a registry.

However, neither Sasaki nor Lipe disclose nor suggest that an optional device may be connected to a peripheral device. In addition, neither Sasaki nor Lipe disclose nor suggest installing in an information apparatus a device driver corresponding to a device ID which is determined depending on a connection status of the optional device to the peripheral device.

Therefore, as Lipe and Sasaki, neither alone nor combination, teach nor suggest installing in an information apparatus a device driver corresponding to a device ID which is determined depending on a connection status of the optional device to the peripheral device, Applicant submits that amended Claim 30 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

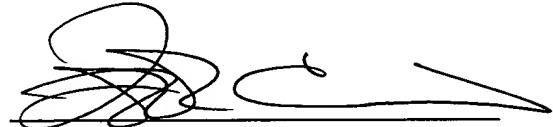
Amended independent Claims 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68 and 69 incorporate substantially the same features as amended independent Claim 30. Applicant submits that the discussion above in regard to Claim 30 applies equally to Claims 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68 and 69. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68 and 69 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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